



मराठी

04 July 2024

National and International News

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Why in the news?

- India has **officially announced its participation in the annual Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.**

About SCO:

- **Establishment:** June 15, **2001**, in **Shanghai**, China.
- **Coverage:**
 - **World's largest regional organization** by **geography** and **population**.
 - Covers about **80% of the Eurasian landmass** and **40% of the world population**.
- **Objective:**
 - Promote **cooperation and peace among member states**.
 - Foster a **new democratic, fair, and rational international political and economic order**.
- **Founding Members:**
 - Kazakhstan,
 - China,
 - Kyrgyzstan,
 - Russia,
 - Tajikistan, and
 - Uzbekistan.
- **Expansion:**
 - **India** and **Pakistan** joined in **2017**.
 - **Iran** joined in **2023**.
- **Total: 9 member states.**
- **Observer States:** Mongolia, Belarus, and Afghanistan.
- **Resources:**
 - Controls **20% of the world's oil reserves**.
 - Controls **44% of the world's natural gas reserves**.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organizational Structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supreme Decision-Making Body: Heads of State Council (HSC). ○ Meets once a year. ○ Adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organization. ● Permanent Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SCO Secretariat based in Beijing. ○ Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. ○ Promotes cooperation against terrorism, separatism, and extremism. ○ Official Languages: Chinese and Russian.
<p>National Test House (NTH)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The union government is working on making the National Test House (NTH) as the apex certification body for all Indian products. <p>About NTH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment and Legacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formerly known as the Government Test House. ○ Established in 1912. ○ Rich legacy as India's largest multi-location multidisciplinary industrial central government testing laboratory. ● Facilities and Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specializes in testing, calibration, and quality evaluation related to industry, commerce, and trade. ○ Complies with international and national standards. ○ Provides testing, evaluation, and calibration of raw materials and finished products.



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ADDAPEDIA

Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- **Branch Locations:**

- Kolkata,
- Mumbai,
- Chennai,
- Ghaziabad,
- Jaipur,
- Guwahati, and
- Varanasi.

- **Functions:**

- **Test and evaluation** of materials, products, equipment, modules, systems, and sub-systems across all branches of Science & Technology.
- **Test and Certification** of Welders under the Central Authority for Testing and Certification of Welders.
- **Assists industries in developing indigenous products for export promotion and import substitution.**
- **Supports industries' quality assurance programs.**
- **Assists BIS** in the **formulation of National Standards.**
- **Provides R&D support** in Test Engineering.
- **Assists NABL in the accreditation of Testing & Calibration Laboratories** in India.

- **Administrative Details:**

- Functions as a **subordinate office under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and the Department of Consumer Affairs.**



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Exercise MAITREE

Why in the news?

- The **Indian Army contingent** has departed to participate in the **joint military Exercise MAITREE** with **Thailand**.

About Exercise MAITREE:

- **13th Edition: India-Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE.**
- **Location:** Fort Vachiraprakan, Tak Province, **Thailand**.
- **Previous Edition:** Conducted at **Umroi, Meghalaya** in September 2019.
- Main Representation: **Battalion of the LADAKH SCOUTS**
- **Aim and Objectives:**
 - **Primary Aim:** To foster **Military Cooperation between India and Thailand**.
 - **Key Focus:** Enhancing combined capabilities in executing **Joint Counter Insurgency/Terrorist Operations** in Jungle and Urban Environments.
 - **Framework:** Operations conducted under **Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter**.

Saryu River



Why in the news?

- **Efforts to drain an artificial lake formed in the Saryu River** have **failed** for the second consecutive day, **posing a significant threat**.

About Saryu River:

- **States:** Flows through **Uttarakhand** and **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Alternative Names:** Also known as the **Sarayu** or **Sarju River**.
- **Significance:**
 - Mentioned in the **Vedas** and the **Ramayana**.
 - **Ayodhya**, the birthplace of Lord Rama, is **situated on its banks**.
- **Course:**
 - **Originates** from the **foothills of the Himalayas**.
 - Flows through **Kapkot, Bageshwar, and Seraghat towns**.
 - **Discharges into the Sharada River** at **Pancheshwar** on the **India-Nepal border**.
 - The **Sharada River (Kali River)** flows into the **Ghaghara River** in Sitapur District, Uttar Pradesh.
 - The **lower Ghaghara is known as Sarayu**, especially as it **flows through Ayodhya**.



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Steel Slag Road

Why in the news?

- The **member of Niti Aayog** in the **First International Conference on Steel Slag Road** released **guidelines for the utilization and processing of steel slag**.
- It is **jointly organized by CSIR-CRRI and PHDCCI at New-Delhi**.

About Steel Slag Road:

- **Industrial byproduct from steel manufacturing.**
- Produced in large quantities during **steel-making using electric arc furnaces** or by **smelting iron ore in a basic oxygen furnace**.
- **Primarily consists of calcium, magnesium, manganese, and aluminium silicates and oxides.**
- **Applications of Steel Slag:**
 - **Environmental Remediation:**
 - Acts as a **barrier material for waste sites, preventing heavy metal leaching.**
 - **High oxide mineral content** forces **heavy metals to precipitate out of solution in water runoff.**
 - Successfully **treats acidic water discharges** from abandoned mines.
 - **Construction:**
 - Replaces coarse aggregate due to higher impact and crushing strength.
 - Offers **better anti-skid capacity** for road surfaces.

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